

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 24747 241835Z

63

ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 INR-07 CIAE-00

NSA-01 CU-02 L-03 H-02 JUSE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 /055 W

----- 103933

R 241802Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3444

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 24747

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, US

SUBJECT: ASSESSMENT OF CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER'S VISIT TO
FRANCE

1. CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN BURGER HAS COMPLETED AN EXTRA-ORDINARILY SUCCESSFUL OFFICIAL VISIT TO FRANCE. THE VISIT'S SUCCESS WAS DUE, I BELIEVE, TO TWO MAIN FACTORS -- THE UNUSUAL HOSPITALITY OF HIS FRENCH HOSTS AND THE COOPERATION OF THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE DEPARTMENT. WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF GENERAL SCOWCROFT AND DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY EAGLEBURGER, THE BURGERS WERE ABLE TO TRAVEL BOTH WAYS ON SPECIAL USG AIRCRAFT, A FITTING COMPLEMENT TO THE STYLE OF THEIR WELCOME TO FRANCE. PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING, PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC, THE PRESIDENTS OF THE SENATE AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, AND OTHER TOP-LEVEL FRENCH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HOSTED A REMARKABLE SERIES OF LUNCHEONS, DINNERS AND RECEPTIONS IN THE BURGERS' HONOR. THE FRENCH TREATED THE CHIEF JUSTICE VIRTUALLY AS A HEAD OF STATE, EVEN PAYING HIM THE UNUSUAL HONOR OF HAVING THE GARDE REPUBLICAIN IN ATTENDANCE AT CONSTITUTIONAL COUNCIL PRESIDENT FREY'S RECEPTION.

2. JUDGING FRENCH MOTIVATIONS FOR THIS INITIATIVE AND THE SUPERB WAY IN WHICH THEY CARRIED IT OUT, I BELIEVE WE MUST DISTINGUISH BETWEEN THE PROFESSIONAL AND GOVERN-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 24747 241835Z

MENTAL/POLITICAL ASPECTS OF THE VISIT. THE FRENCH,

PARTICULARLY THE LEGAL PROFESSION, HAVE A GREAT INTEREST IN AND RESPECT FOR THE U.S. SUPREME COURT AS AN INSTITUTION. ON THIS BASIS ALONE, THE VISIT OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE COULD HAVE CONSTITUTED A FRUITFUL CULTURAL INTERCHANGE. BUT THE FRENCH POLITICAL LEADERSHIP CLEARLY WANTED TO MANIFEST SOMETHING MORE SIGNIFICANT. THE SUSTAINED HIGHEST LEVEL ATTENTION PAID TO THE CHIEF JUSTICE OVER A PERIOD OF TEN DAYS, THE OUTPOURING OF CEREMONY AND PERSONAL WARMTH, AND THE OVERALL ENORMOUS EFFORT OF THE ADMINISTRATION, DEMONSTRATED A FUNDAMENTAL ATTACHMENT TO THE IDEALS OF A FREE AND LIBERAL SOCIETY SYMBOLIZED BY THE UNITED STATES IN THE PERSON OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE.

3. IN SHORT, WHENEVER THE CHIPS ARE DOWN, THE UNITED STATES AND FRANCE WILL STAND TOGETHER IN DEFENSE OF THE LIBERAL SOCIETY. IT IS APPARENTLY VERY IMPORTANT FOR GISCARD AND HIS ENTOURAGE TO SURFACE THIS ELEMENT OF POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY FROM TIME TO TIME, AND THE OFFICIAL VISIT OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE WAS THEIR FIRST REAL OPPORTUNITY TO DO THIS IN PARIS SINCE THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION OF MAY 1974. DE GAULLE AND POMPIDOU WORKED FROM THE PREMISE THAT THE ULTIMATE PROTECTION OF THE UNITED STATES COULD BE VIRTUALLY TAKEN FOR GRANTED. GISCARD'S PREMISE IS THAT WHILE FRENCH SECURITY IS A VITAL INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES, THE AMERICANS SHOULD NEVER BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED. THE EXTRAORDINARY TREATMENT OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE, IN MY VIEW, EPITOMIZES THE FUNDAMENTAL POSITIVE CHANGE IN OUTLOOK TOWARD US-FRENCH RELATIONS WHICH WE HAVE WITNESSED WITH SATISFACTION OVER THE PAST 16 MONTHS.

RUSH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, JUDICIAL BRANCH
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PARIS24747
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750331-1070
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750922/aaaaasxu.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <28 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASSESSMENT OF CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER'S VISIT TO FRANCE
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, FR, US, (BURGER, WARREN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006